Western Carolina University Polling Site Information
for
Jackson County Board of Elections

Last Updated: 12/05/2025

Introduction

As requested by the Jackson County Board of Elections at their November 18, 2025, meeting, this report contains options related to enhancements of WCU's current early voting site and information regarding the exploration of other potential polling site locations on campus. As the historic liaison between WCU and the Jackson County Board of Elections, this information is prepared by WCU's Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL).

The administration of the buildings on WCU's campus belongs to the building's most relevant department such as the Department of Campus Activities, Athletics, a particular college, etc. CCESL consulted with the administrators of each of the sites below, as well as senior leadership, to obtain the information. Parking Operations was also consulted for information regarding designated voter parking.

Current Site – Enhancements Available

A.K. Hinds University Center, Multipurpose Room (UC #232)
245 Memorial Dr, Cullowhee, NC 28723

- Basic information
  - Availability for Spring 2026
    - Early Voting, yes
    - Election Day, yes
  - Availability for Fall 2026
    - Early Voting, yes
    - Election Day, yes
  - Room size
    - Max capacity is 110
  - Security
    - Yes, able to be locked
  - Building hours
    - Open and staffed during voting times
  - ADA compliance
    - Yes
    - Bathrooms available
  - Curbside voting
    - Yes, in the University Center side lot
  - Parking
    - As utilized in the past, parking in Lot #29 (next to the UC) includes 6 designated voter spots, including 3 handicapped spots.

        - Parking Operations has offered to provide enhanced parking with exclusive voter access to the Reid Parking lot, up to an additional 80 spaces.
    - Cost
        - Space is provided free of charge.
- Additional considerations
    - Dates are reserved for early voting and election day through all of 2026.
    - Additional signage can be provided to direct voters to the UC and parking, including up to 6 electronic signs, numerous sidewalk and yard signs.
    - This voting location was established 9 years ago with bi-partisan support from Rep. Joe Sam Queen and Senator Tom Apodoca.

<u>Alternative Site Exploration – Viable Options</u>

Health and Human Sciences Building, Multipurpose Room (#204)

4121 Little Savannah Rd, Cullowhee, NC 28723

- Basic information
    - Availability for Spring 2026 (see additional considerations below)
        - Early Voting, yes
        - Election Day, yes
    - Availability for Fall 2026
        - Early Voting, yes
        - Election Day, yes
    - Room size
        - Max capacity is 150
    - Security
        - Yes, doors able to be locked
    - Building hours
        - Building hours differ from main campus. Building hour adjustments and accommodations can be made to address this.
    - ADA compliance
        - Yes
        - Bathrooms available
    - Curbside voting
        - Yes
    - Parking
        - 20-30 spaces at the upper lot of HHS exclusive to voters, including curbside.
    - Cost
        - Typically, there is a $85 per day charge as well as a housekeeping, however, the University leadership has expressed willingness to sort through logistics and cost should this site be chosen and provide it free of charge.

- Additional considerations
    - This location is already on the CatTran route, providing no additional cost transportation option.
    - Some meetings/events are currently scheduled in this space during spring 2026 voting. Senior leadership expressed willingness to sort through these logistics and make the space available, should this site be chosen.

<u>Alternative Site Exploration – Maybe or Partial Options</u>

Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center, Hospitality Room

92 Catamount Rd, Cullowhee, NC 28723

- Basic information
    - Availability for Spring 2026 (see additional considerations below)
        - Early Voting, yes
        - Election Day, yes
    - Availability for Fall 2026
        - Unlikely due to Football
    - Room size
        - Large space, will have use of 2 sections
    - Security
        - Yes, able to be locked
    - Building hours
        - Open and staffed during M-Fri voting time
        - Accommodation can be made for Saturday voting times
    - ADA compliance
        - Yes
        - Bathrooms available
    - Curbside voting
        - Yes
    - Parking
        - Up to 70 parking spaces available exclusive to voters in the Creek Lot directly across from the center
        - 17 spaces in 9A exclusive to voters during weekdays, right at the Center, nonexclusive during Saturday basketball games.
        - Additional parking available in parking deck.
    - Cost
        - $250 for Saturday when they are not regularly open.
- Additional considerations
    - There is a camera in the room, but it can be covered during this time.
    - Basketball events going on but the space and parking would still be available (see parking section above).
    - Not available in Fall 2026 due to football practices and games.

University Methodist Church, Fellowship Room
416 Central Dr, Cullowhee, NC 28723

- Basic information
    - Availability for Spring 2026
        - Early Voting, likely
        - Election Day, likely
    - Availability for Fall 2026
        - Early Voting, more challenging
        - Election Day, likely
    - Room size
        - Max capacity is 100
    - Security
        - Yes
    - Building hours
        - Longer hours can be accommodated
    - ADA compliance
        - Yes
        - Bathrooms available
    - Curbside voting
        - Yes
    - Parking
        - Yes
    - Cost
        - Likely free, waiting on confirmation
- Additional considerations
    - Enthusiastic about being a polling site, however, it has large, well-established traditional events during fall early voting. The church would need be further consulted prior to any final decision.
    - Could do voting in the large or small fellowship room, either provides plenty of space.

<u>Non-Viable Alternative Sites</u>
Cordelia Camp Building, Gym
69 University Heights Rd, Cullowhee, NC 28723

- Not feasible due to the number of athletes that use the locker room, sports medicine classes, and training.

Hunter Library, Flex Space
176 Central Dr, Cullowhee, NC 28723

- Gravel parking lot, not easy to walk, parking is not very viable.